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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 14

June 13, 1942

GEORGIA (June 1).--Program of organizing neighborhood volunteer leaders progressing rapidly. Every county worker has been visited by a State worker; organization plans discussed thoroughly. All counties completed community delineations and selection community leaders and now in process neighborhood delineations and selection neighborhood leaders - "Victory Volunteers." Uniform procedure adopted for all counties.

Program to hold down cost of living discussed at staff conference and plans made for launching program in field. Series district group meetings held. Information to be carried to farm people through community and neighborhood meetings.

Educational program under way to assist farmers in pooling transportation facilities to conserve trucks and rubber and assure getting produce to market.

Food preservation being emphasized in Food-for-Victory program. Intensive short course and district meetings held to train home demonstration agents in canning, drying, brining. Canning institutes held in all counties. County and community leaders trained to carry information and demonstrations in neighborhood groups.

LOUISIANA (June 1).--Campaigns to save seed from home-grown crops undertaken throughout State. Victory gardeners enlisted in saving tomato seeds. To take place of commercial nitrates, farmers widely adopting practice of growing winter legumes. Approximately 100,000 acres long-staple cotton planted to meet demand for quality products for war purposes. New outlet for quality sweetpotatoes provided by establishment dehydrating plant at St. Francisville for supplying product to U. S. Army.

Meetings conducted by swine specialist urging farmers to provide home supply meat before selling surplus. Higher quality hogs stressed in program to add 50,000 hogs to 1943 production.

Schools for grading and candling eggs held in various parishes. Small poultry farmers increasing production to meet war board goals.

50,000 copies "Farmers, Prices, and War" prepared by farm-management specialist, distributed to farm families of State to provide summary of price control emergency regulations.

Practically every Negro farm family in north Louisiana has home garden, planting 12 different vegetables. Products of gardens will be canned for winter. Canning schools will be held in strategic centers in every parish.

Newspapers cooperating in giving full information on different phases of food production, nutrition, health, and salvage efforts; 16 regular programs each week broadcast over 8 radio stations; 12 newspapers issued special Food-for-Freedom editions; 4 daily papers devote a page each week to food production subjects; 14 weekly papers carry a column each week on nutrition, health, and homemaking.

MAINE (June 1).---Information on 1943 production assembled and used at conferences in all counties. Detailed report covering general situation, 1943 feasible and potential production, and suggested adjustment, in preparation.

State-wide community meetings held to discuss changes occurring in economic life of family. Discussion questions included - Have we money to buy with? What will we be using our money for that we did not have to use it for last year? How much more do things cost? What will be our policy in regard to buying this year? Subject matter concerned articles commonly used on which some standardization has been done.

Provisions of the Price Control Act presented to all extension agents, to the State staff in conference, and to county personnel in county conferences. Material prepared for use of State staff and for use in counties. Meetings of neighborhood leaders on a township basis being arranged, at which provisions of the act will be explained.

Information given farmers in northern Penobscot on provisions Boston milk order and health regulations of Boston market. Assisting committee of Maine Cooperative Council in working out trucking regulations in effort to conserve tires and gasoline. Information on allotment of cans and priorities to obtain repairs and supplies furnished canning associations and other processing cooperatives.

Work on machinery repair has continued with demonstrations and clinics held over State. Several meetings held on farm fire prevention.

Special outlook and price information for wartime conditions furnished poultrymen in "Timely Topics for Poultrymen"; distribution 2,200. Potato growers receive economic information through Potato Situation Letter sent to 1,600 growers.

NEBRASKA (May 29).---Last report on pledge sign-up of the Victory Home and Garden phase of program shows 92,000 families signed up to grow and preserve garden products.

Final enrollment in Pasture-Forage-Livestock program shows a total of 2,569. All counties planning to do follow-up work with these cooperators during the summer.

Following interstate conference at St. Joseph, Mo., on cost of living, 2 days were spent by administrative, supervisory, and specialist staff of extension

in getting information and preparing materials to be used at district conferences of agents on this subject. The work to be done will fit in with the neighborhood organization scheme being put into effect in each county. County extension boards have met in almost all counties and are planning to complete their organizations down to the neighborhood basis to take care of any emergencies that may arise in connection with war program.

The emergency rural fire-control project has been presented to the counties, and fire wardens are being appointed and trained to handle emergencies that arise in their communities. Bulletins are being prepared to assist wardens. Safety precautions along other lines being stressed. With younger boys and some women operating machinery on the farm, effort is being made to protect them from danger in connection with this work.

Women's project achievement days completed during May with special emphasis on conserving food throughout the summer.

Chinchbug and grasshopper infestation surveys being made. Bait-mixing plants being put in order, and available bait-spreaders listed.

Reports show 8,626 boys and 8,167 girls enrolled in 4-H Club projects.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (June 1).--Memorandum of agreement signed jointly by State Council of Defense and Extension outlines areas of responsibility for conducting educational programs among rural people and provides for equal voice in delineation of neighborhoods and appointment neighborhood leaders. Counties requested to complete neighborhood organization by June 20. Reports indicate excellent cooperation from those asked to serve as leaders.

Joint conference of Extension and representatives other State and Federal agencies, farm organizations, scheduled to discuss role Extension will assume in educational tasks. Extension staff to meet at Concord for conference on price control education program.

Studies completed on apple marketing and on freezer locker plants. Working on adjustments ^{to} be made when State Milk Control Board issues orders to eliminate duplicate milk routes, unnecessary deliveries, and other trucking practices that do not conserve gasoline and rubber.

Survey to determine what rural people of State customarily eat completed. Results being compiled to be used as basis for shaping and directing nutrition program.

Organization work completed and nutrition work started five cities. Plan to organize five more cities in July and five in August. Is first effort to extend extension teaching to urban people.

Canning conference for home demonstration agents, club agents, home service supervisors for utilities, FSA agents, and vocational teachers held.

Campaign to encourage more extensive cutting of wood for fuel continued.

Intensive spray message program continued through newspapers and radio. Extension continuing to devote attention to two major problems of fruit growers -- labor to pick crop and boxes for packing it.

Preliminary report on 1943 agricultural production in State about ready for distribution. Material being gathered on livestock inventories during 1940, 1941, and 1942, to determine changes in number of cows on farms.

Club agents will join with home demonstration agents in carrying on leader-training meetings in as many towns as possible. Preliminary enrollment in 4-H canning project is 1,336 as compared to 689 in 1941. First 2 weeks in May devoted to following up groups enrolled in 4-H Mobilization Week, particularly meeting garden leaders.

NORTH CAROLINA (May 27).--The 28,000 neighborhood leaders in North Carolina are now in the midst of their fourth major wartime educational job, that of fully acquainting every farm family with the President's program for controlling the cost of living. They have previously helped to conduct scrap metal collection, farm machinery repair, and Victory Garden campaigns. Some of them helped with a cotton-improvement program, 4-H Mobilization, and with last-minute drives to make certain that every farm carried out its pledge to increase plantings of soybeans and peanuts for oil.

Every county has its neighborhood leader organization. There are 23,516 white leaders, more than 4,000 Negro leaders, and 114 Indian leaders; 42 percent are women and 58 percent men.

Every leader has been given sufficient copies of an information sheet to place it in the hands of every family on their list. On one side of the sheet is an explanation of the national program to control the cost of living, including "Background," the seven points in the President's plan, and a brief statement of what the program is designed to do. On the other side of the sheet is the family plan or check sheet for use by farm families as a guide in helping to organize their war effort.

In launching the anti-inflation program all extension agents were brought together in 11 district and subdistrict meetings, to aid them in training neighborhood leaders.

SOUTH DAKOTA (June 1).--Five members of supervisory staff and 5 specialists assigned to assist in neighborhood leadership program will have completed meetings in every county by middle June. County meetings were preceded by 8 district conferences for county and home agents where neighborhood leadership and anti-inflation programs were discussed. At county meetings a group of 25 men and women county leaders will divide county into communities and designate man and woman leader for each community. Following county meetings, county and home agents will contact community leaders individually or in small group meetings to divide communities into neighborhoods and select leaders.

Two refresher institutes for home economists held. Up-to-date cookery methods to preserve vitamin and mineral contents of foods, and newer knowledge of nutrition facts presented. Seven district meetings of federation home extension

clubs discussed homemaker's job in victory program. Dress review of functional work clothes presented as part of each session. Talk on "Mobilizing the Family for Victory on the Home Front" given by home-management specialist at 8 meetings, attendance 1,050.

Mimeographed summary of general maximum price regulation and 4-page circular on anti-inflation program prepared and supplied all staff members to assist them in presenting information to farm families. One-page circular on anti-inflation distributed all neighborhood leaders.

Approximately 500 carloads scrap iron were sold by farmers in 42 counties during first 2 weeks May, and from 50 to 200 tons per county was picked up by trucks manned by volunteers and donated to war agencies. State totals not yet complete.

Control of garden insects featured at 4-H Club camps. Garden insect manual and insect control playlet prepared by entomologist. Manual will be used along with demonstration work in classes, and playlet will feature last evening's program at each camp.

